

REMARKS

After the foregoing amendment, claims 1 - 53 are currently pending. Claim 53 has been amended to correct a typographical error. No new matter is added.

In the Action, the Examiner required an election between Species 1 (Fig. 1), Species 2 (Figs. 2 and 5), Species 3 (Figs. 3 and 4), Species 4 (Fig. 6), and Species 5 (Fig. 7). The Examiner indicates that claim 1 is generic.

To the extent that claim 1 is generic, all species are covered by the generic claim. However, in order to advance prosecution of the Application, Applicants elect to prosecute Species 1 of Fig. 1, corresponding to claims 1 – 7, 9 – 28, 30 – 37, 39 – 44, and 46 – 53, for prosecution on the merits if no generic claim is held allowable.

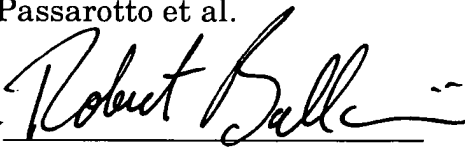
Applicants: Passarotto et al.
Application No.: 10/803,291

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request examination of all of the pending claims. If for any reason the Examiner believes that an interview, either telephonically or in person, would advance prosecution of the Application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned to arrange an interview.

Respectfully submitted,

Passarotto et al.

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